Calendar No. 989

97TH CONGRESS, 2d Session | SENATE | REPORT No. 97-677

AUTHORIZING THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY TO PROCURE A BUST OR STATUE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JUNIOR, TO BE PLACED IN THE CAPITOL

DECEMBER 9 (legislative day, NOVEMBER 30), 1982.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. MATHIAS, from the Committee on Rules and Administration, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. Con. Res. 153]

The Committee on Rules and Administration to which was referred the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 153) that the Joint Committee on the Library is authorized and directed to procure a bust or statue of Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior, and to cause such sculpture to be placed in a suitable location in the Capitol as determined by the Joint Committee on the Library, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the concurrent resolution be agreed to.

PURPOSE

House Concurrent Resolution 153 would authorize the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a bust or statue of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. When completed, the bust or statue would be placed in the Capitol in an appropriate location determined by the Joint Committee on the Library. An amount not to exceed $25,000 would be authorized to pay for the expenses incurred in the project. These expenses would be paid out of the contingent fund of the House on vouchers approved by the Chairman of the Joint Committee.

On December 2, 1982, the Committee on Rules and Administration held a hearing on the House and Senate concurrent resolutions authorizing the placing of a statue or bust of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in the United States Capitol. The first of these two measures, House Concurrent Resolution 153, sponsored by Representative Bingham and co-sponsored by 143 of his fellow Members, was passed by the House of Representatives on September 15, 1981, by an overwhelming vote of 386 to 14. The second measure, Senate Concurrent Resolution 32, of which Chairman Mathias is the sponsor, was sub-

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mitted to the Senate during the week preceding passage by the House of Congressman Bingham's companion measure.

The language of both resolutions is short and to the point; the House measure specifies:

> Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Joint Committee on the Library is authorized and directed to procure a bust or statue of Dr. Martin Luther King, Junior, and to cause such sculpture to be placed in a suitable location in the Capitol as determined by the Joint Committee on the Library.
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> Expenses incurred by the Joint Committee on the Library in carrying out this concurrent resolution, which shall not exceed $25,000, shall be paid out of the contingent fund of the House on vouchers approved by the chairman of the joint committee.

The Committee knows of few Americans who have done more to change America for the better than the late Martin Luther King. Dr. King was a man of vision who for many Americans came to symbolize the equality of all Americans. Placing a statue or bust of Dr. King in the Capitol will serve to memorialize his contributions on such matters as the historic legislation of the 1960s affecting civil rights and the right to vote. Moreover, Dr. King is perceived by many as a primary force in bringing about equality and a sense of dignity not only for black Americans in the United States but for other oppressed people throughout the world. In America, particularly in the South, he was a dynamic catalyst in the struggle against the system of segregation and in gaining for blacks the exercise of their right to vote. In achieving these goals, he used the ideals of Christ and the methods of Mahatma Gandhi—nonviolent resistance through demonstrations, marches, and sit-ins.

Though brief in time, Dr. King's career was meteoric; the events and accomplishments of that brief career are well known.

BACKGROUND

Concurrent resolutions authorizing the erection of memorials to Dr. King have twice before been favorably reported by this Committee. In the 94th Congress, the House passed H. Con. Res. 96, authorizing the erection of a bust of the Reverend King, on January 20, 1976. The resolution was referred to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration which reported it out favorably without amendment on September 29, 1976 (S. Rept. 96–1370). The resolution was, however, amended on the floor of the Senate by the adoption of a provision authorizing the Senate Commission on Arts and Antiquities to provide for a sculpture of former Senator Carl Hayden, of Arizona who retired on January 2, 1969, to be placed in the Senate wing or in a Senate office building (the sculpture of Dr. King would have been placed in the House wing). No action occurred thereafter on the resolution.

In the 96th Congress, the House, on July 30, 1979, passed H. Con. Res. 80, authorizing a similar sculpture respecting Dr. King. The resolution was referred to the Senate Rules and Administration Committee, which reported it out, without amendment, on December 29, 1979 (S. Rept. 96–543). No action was taken on the resolution.

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